

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13

MBFR-04 AEC-11 DRC-01 /162 W
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R 170826Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8192

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CH

SUBJ: POMPIDOU VISIT TO CHINA

SUMMARY: PEKING WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE POMPIDOU VISIT. IN PUBLIC, THE CHINESE PLAYED UP THE SIMILARITY OF SINO-FRENCH ARMS POLICIES AND THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE. END SUMMARY

1. THE PRC HAS GIVEN PRESIDENT POMPIDOU THE DELUXE TREATMENT FOR VISITING HEADS OF STATE INCLUDING A LONG SESSION WITH MAO AND AN ESCORT BY CHOU EN-LAI TO THE PROVINCES. HOWEVER GIVEN PEKING'S PRESENT VIEW OF EUROPE AS THE STRATEGIC "KEY" IN THE PRESENT "UPHEAVAL" OF WORLD FORCES, THE CHINESE SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S VISIT. MOREOVER,

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IOUS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S VISIT. MOREOVER,

PEKING IS DELIGHTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY UP THE SIMILARITY OF SINO-FRENCH VIEWS ON NUCLEAR TESTING AND DISARMAMENT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE MOST IMPORTANT EXCHANGES ON EUROPEAN AND OTHER WORLD PROBLEMS PRESUMABLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, THE PRC HAS TAKEN THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO EXPRESS AT A HIGH LEVEL ITS VIEWS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY. IN AS DIRECT LANGUAGE AS DIPLOMATICALLY POSSIBLE, CHOU EN-LAI IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH OF SEPT. 11 WARNED AGAINST MOSCOW'S INTENTION TO "IMPOSE ITS WILL" AND CAUTIONED AGAINST BEING LULLED BY PROMISES OF PEACE AND SECURITY. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT USE THE PHRASE "FALSE DETENTE" CHOU REPEATED HIS CONGRESS PARTY REPORT'S WARNING THAT "RELAXATION IS A SUPERFICIAL PHENOMENA."

3. A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL OF SEPT. 10 WELCOMING POMPIDOU DID NOT MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS AND STRESSED THAT BOTH WERE "SCRAMBLING FOR HEGEMONY" IN EUROPE. CHOU, HOWEVER, WAS ANXIOUS TO DRIVE HOME TO THE FRENCH THE DANGER OF SOVIET AMBITIONS. ALTHOUGH CHOU PROCLAIMED THAT BOTH CHINA AND FRANCE BROOK NO INTERFERENCE OR AGGRESSION BY "ANY SUPERPOWER," IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THE THREAT TO SECURITY AND "TRANQUILITY" HE DID NOT REFER TO THE SUPERPOWERS. HIS WARNING AGAINST THE "SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE" WHO "DREAM THE DREAMS OF 18TH CENTURY FEUDAL EMPERORS" WAS AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE "NEW CZARS" AS HE CALLED THE KREMLIN LEADERS IN HIS REPORT LAST MONTH TO LGE PARTY CONGRESS. (NCNA IN REPORTING

POMPIDOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF SEPT 14 OMITTED THE PRESIDENT'S DENIAL THAT HIS TRIP WAS AIMED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY.)

4. CHOU ALSO ENDORSED EUROPEAN UNITY AND IMPLICITLY SUPPORTED FRANCE'S DEFENSE AND DISARMAMENT POLICIES. CHOU SAID THAT CHINA CONSIDERS "THAT ALL COUNTRIES SUBJECTED TO AGGRESSION OR THREAT ARE ENTITLED TO POSSESS THEIR OWN MEANS OF DEFENSE." (NCNA QUOTED POMPIDOU'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARK THAT BOTH CHINA AND FRANCE WERE DEVELOPING ATOMIC WEAPONS "IN A SPIRIT OF DEFENSE.") IN EFFECT CHOU ENCOURAGED EUROPEAN UNITY WHILE SUPPORTING FRANCE'S POLICY OF MAINTAINING INDEPENDENT DEFENSE AND NUCLEAR FORCES.

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5. PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES GENERALLY EMPHASIZED THE CONVERGENCE OF SINO-FRENCH VIEWS. IN HIS TOAST AT THE RETURN BANQUET ON SEPT 14, FOR EXAMPLE, CHOU SAID THAT CHINA AND FRANCE HAVE "MANY COMMON OR SIMILAR VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS." AND POMPIDOU IN HIS SPEECHES DID NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE FRENCH VIEW OF EUROPEAN DETENTE, ALTHOUGH HE DID SO IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. OSBORN

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